

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, GW, BY
SUBJECT: FRG AID TO BURUNDI

1. DURING DISCUSSION OF SEVERAL CENTRAL AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TOPICS, EMBOFF QUERIED DR. EHM FROM AID MINISTRY REGARDING STATUS OF FRG AID PROGRAM IN BURUNDI. EHM REPLIED THAT THE FRG HAS DECIDED TO GIVE GREATER ATTENTION TO ITS AID PROGRAM THERE AND WILL INCREASE ITS CURRENT COMMITMENT FROM DM 10 MILLION TO APPROXIMATELY DM 30 MILLION IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

2. EHM NOTED FIVE REASONS FOR THE INCREASED FRG PROGRAM IN BURUNDI: A) THE POLITICAL SITUATION IS MUCH MORE STABLE THAN A FEW YEARS AGO; B) THE FRG IS QUITE SATISFIED WITH THE PROGRESS OF ITS CURRENT PROGRAMS IN BURUNDI. EHM SINGLED OUT THE WORK OF THE 5 MAN PLANNING TEAM WHICH IS HELPING THE BURUNDI GOVERNMENT PREPARE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND ITS FIVE YEAR PLAN; C) THE FRG IS INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN A LARGE NICKEL-MINING PROJECT WHICH UNCLASSIFIED

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THE WORLD BANK HAS PROPOSED. THE FRG INTENDS TO

PLAY A LARGE ROLE IN THE INFRA-STRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT NECESSARY FOR THIS PROJECT; D) PRESIDENT MICOMBERO MADE A PERSONAL REQUEST TO EHM FOR A LARGER GERMAN PROGRAM DURING EHM'S VISIT TO BURUNDI LATE LAST YEAR. (EHM ADDED THAT MICOMBERO, WHO ALSO HOPES TO ATTRACT GERMAN INVESTMENT, ASSURED HIM THAT FOREIGN INVESTMENTS WERE WELCOME IN BURUNDI AND WOULD NEVER BE TOUCHED BY HIS GOVERNMENT); E) THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC WANTS TO ESTABLISH APPROXIMATE PARITY BETWEEN ITS AID COMMITMENTS TO BURUNDI AND RWANDA. (GERMANY IS CURRENTLY SUPPLY AROUND DM 30 MILLION IN ASSISTANCE TO RWANDA).

3. COMMENT: EVEN WITH THE PLANNED INCREASE IN THE FRG PROGRAM, IT WILL STILL REMAIN SMALL IN ABSOLUTE AND RELATIVE TERMS. NONETHELESS, THE FRG APPEARS TO ATTACH CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO ITS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN BURUNDI, WITH EHM PLANNING TO VISIT LATER THIS YEAR. IN DWELLING UPON THE NICKEL-MINING PROJECT AT SOME LENGTH, EHM ALSO LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC HAS ITS EYE ON THIS PROJECT AND IS INTERESTED IN A LARGE AND LONG-TERM COMMITMENT.

HILLENBRAND

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